ANNOUNCEMENT *re*: PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT: An announcement that was made by me on another occasion has been put into formal shape. As announced at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on Saturday the 29th of July 1939, the Travancore Government have resolved to constitute a Committee to advise Government in the Public Works Department. The Committee will consist of 4 members elected by the Legislative Assembly, 2 by the State Council and 3 nominees of Government with power to co-opt 2 more members, from time to time, in case of need. The Committee will continue in office for a year at a time and the members will be eligible for re-election or re-nomination as the case may be, interim vacancies being filled up in the same manner as the original appointments. The quorum for meetings of the Committee will be 5.

The Committee will examine and advise on Government's programme with reference to roads, canals, and bridges and urban and rural communications generally. It will help to formulate a long-term plan for carrying out in the proper order of priority and with advertence to the financial resources available to the department a scheme for bringing into existence, maintaining and renovating adequate means of communication by land and water to serve the interests of the State. The Committee will also advise on programmes of irrigation, water-supply, drainage, the relief of water scarcity and such other problems as are placed before it at the instance of Government or the Chief Engineer. The Chief Engineer or one of his nominees will act as Chairman and convener of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

PRESIDENT: I have received notice of a motion for adjournment of the business of the House from Mr. M. L. Janardhana Pillai. The motion reads:

> "I beg to move an adjournment motion as an urgent matter of public importance has risen on account of the statement published in the Harijan by Mahatma Gadhi to the effect that there should be no such thing as the policy of non-interference by the Paramount Power and that there must be a change in the manners of all parties to the interference of Congress in Indian States."

I have to rule the motion out of order. It consists of two parts. The first part relates to a recent statement by the eminent personage referred to, regarding the duties assigned by him to the Paramount Power. So far as that is concerned, the question is not within the cognisance of this Legislature, as this Legislature is not competent to discuss the mutual relations of the Paramount Power and the State. These are governed by treaties; and the maintenance and upholding of those treaties and the rights of the States and the obligations of the States, formulated in and inferrable from those treaties, is a matter solely within the cognisance of the Paramount Power and the Government of His Highness the Maharaja acting in a political capacity. That is not open to discussion in this House. I therefore rule that portion out of orde

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So far as the other portion is concerned, the discussion has to be ruled out for the simple reason that it is not a matter of recent occurrence or of any urgency. The demand made on behalf of some groups in the Indian National Congress that they should have a controlling voice in the internal affairs of Indian States has been by no means a recent matter. It is a perfectly natural attitude because if it be considered that Federation is a pressing problem or is expected or hoped or feared to emerge very shortly, and if it be remembered that the Lower Federal House consists of 375 members of whom 125 appertain to the States and 250 to British India and that out of the 250 the Mahommadans are 83. It is obvious that the Congress cannot form a ministry or control the Federation unless they have either Mahommedans or the Indian States on their side. Naturally, it is the political task as well as the preoccupation of the Congress to get the Indian States on their side or under their control and it is natural for a powerful political body like the Indian National Congress to intervene in the internal affairs of the Indian States and build up their own organisations within the States. If honourable members of this House were in their position, they would probably do the same thing. At the same time, it has been the declared policy of this State to run its own administration without outside dictation and they will endeavour to see that no interference by outside bodies is tolerated or encouraged within the State. All these currents and cross-currents have been in operation for some years although recent months have witnessed an intensification, and the statement referred to by the mover does not therefore raise a topic of recent and urgent importance.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I wish to make a statement. I move that Demand No. XIII which comes up for discussion today may be postponed on account of certain administrative difficulties so as to enable it to come up after Demand No. XIV. This arrangement may kindly be permitted to be adopted.

PRESIDENT: It has come to my notice that all the papers relating to the Police Demand have been sent over to the Inspector-General of Police who had been unavoidably prevented from reaching here last evening as it was programmed. He is expected this evening and, that being so, his subject may be taken up to-morrow morning and necessary arrangements made accordingly.

(The sense of the House was ascertained and the President announced that arrangements may be made on that basis.)

NEW MEMBER.

At this stage Mr. K. R. Narayana Iyer took the oath and signed the rolls.

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